

# Notes on selected bird species in Cambodia

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Details are provided of 30 bird species recorded from December 1994 to October 1997 in different parts of Cambodia. The first part consists of 11 new species newly recorded for the country and three other species of significance. Most of the first records are from the north-east in Ratanakiri province, where a week was spent in April 1996, followed by three months in the 1996-1997 winter and, finally, another one and half months in the summer of 1997. Notes on 11 globally near-threatened species figure in the second part.

## NEW RECORDS FOR CAMBODIA

### LESSER YELLOWNAPE *Picus chlorolophus*

The first was seen in January 1997 in west Ratanakiri province (Kaum Mom district). The species was subsequently recorded singly or in pairs at several places in summer 1997, in mixed deciduous forest in different parts of the province.

### ORIENTAL TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia orientalis*

First recorded by Duckworth and Hedges (1998) at the Vietnamese border in January 1997. One bird feeding in short grass around a marsh in Bokeo district, Ratanakiri, in June 1997.

### POMPADOUR GREEN PIGEON *Treron pompadora*

One bird was noted in mixed deciduous forest in Taveng district, in November 1996. A small party was recorded in the forest around Sambor Prey Kuk temples in Kompong Thom province, in August 1997.

### BRIDLED TERN *Sterna anaethetus*

One party of around 20 birds was seen, followed by one or two that were continually seen during a boat trip from Koh Kong to Sre Ambel, in June 1996.

### ORIENTAL HOBBY *Falco severus*

One bird on the bank of the Sesan river between Vun Say and Taveng, in June 1997.

### EURASIAN JAY *Garrulus glandarius*

All records for Ratanakiri province: single birds were seen in dry dipterocarp forests in Lumphat district, and Vun Say district, during October and November 1996. Another was possibly seen in Andong Meas district in June 1997. It has also been recorded in Mondolkiri by N. van Zalinge (Robson, 1997) in December 1996, and by Duckworth and Hedges (1998) in January 1997.

### COMMON GREEN MAGPIE *Cissa chinensis*

One bird in scrub in O Chum district, Ratanakiri in January 1997.

### HILL BLUE FLYCATCHER *Cyornis banyumas*

One bird was seen in bamboo undergrowth of deciduous forest, Taveng district, Ratanakiri in November 1996.

### SIBERIAN RUBYTHROAT *Luscinia calliope*

One bird was noted in grassy scrub in a patch of forest in Oyadao district, east of Ratanakiri in December 1996.

### GREAT TIT *Parus major*

One bird among a bird wave in dry dipterocarp forest of Lumphat district, Ratanakiri in July 1997. Another sighting in east Ratanakiri by one of the staff of the Wildlife Protection Office (Forestry Department of Ministry of Agriculture) was reported verbally to me by Sun Hean in September 1997.

### BLACK-THROATED LAUGHINGTHRUSH *Garrulax chinensis*

A small party was seen in bushes near Banlung, on the path to Yak Lom lake, during a short visit to Ratanakiri in April 1996. The species must be uncommon or rare as this was the only observation I made, in spite of two consecutive periods spent in the province, in winter 1996-1997 and summer 1997.

## GLOBALLY THREATENED OR NEAR-THREATENED SPECIES

### SARUS CRANE *Grus antigone*

Two skins were noted on the front of a house in Vun Say district head village, Ratanakiri in January 1997. The owner said that a villager saw three birds a few kilometres north of the river and shot two of them for meat to sell in the local market.

### GREY-HEADED LAPWING *Vanellus cinereus*

Two birds were seen in a marsh, Oyadao district, Ratanakiri in December 1996. Two birds were recorded in the Bassac marshes, Kandal Province in March 1997.

### WHITE-RUMPED VULTURE *Gyps bengalensis*

All birds were seen in Ratanakiri. Two soaring birds were noted above the Lumphat road in January 1997. One immature was seen in Oyadao district, in June 1997. During a three-day trek in Lumphat district in June-July 1997, groups of up to 12 individuals (the majority immatures) were a daily sight above the dry dipterocarp forest.

### LONG-BILLED VULTURE *Gyps indicus*

A party of three birds was seen in Lumphat town, Ratanakiri in November 1996.

### RED-HEADED VULTURE *Sarcogyps calvus*

Four birds were noted soaring low over paddyfields, in Lumphat district, Ratanakiri in June and July 1997.

RUFIOUS-WINGED BUZZARD *Butastur liventer*

One bird was seen along highway 4, around 70 km from Sihanoukville in June 1996. I found it not uncommon in Ratanakiri, where I regularly encountered single birds in all parts of the province in January, June and July 1997. One bird was noted in Preah Vihear Province, near the provincial town, in May 1997. The habitat was open dry woodlands, open fields in forest, and scrub with trees.

WHITE-RUMPED FALCON *Polihierax insignis*

Seen regularly during my stays in Ratanakiri - November 1996 to January 1997, and June-July 1997. A total of seven pairs were seen separately in dry dipterocarp forest in Lumphat and Kaum Mom districts. It seems to be not uncommon in west Ratanakiri, but it was not observed in other parts of the province.

ORIENTAL DARTER *Anhinga m. melanogaster*

Two birds at Bassac marshes and one at Basset marshes in March 1997, both in Kandal province. Another was noted flying over the moats of Angkor Wat in October 1997.

SPOT-BILLED PELICAN *Pelecanus philippensis*

Two to five birds were encountered at different places on the Mekong floodplain during the wet season: two in June 1995, two singles in October 1995, one in September 1997 (Saang district, Kandal); five in September 1996, and three in September 1997 (Bassac marshes, Kandal); one in August 1997 (Highway 1, Neak Leung district, Prey Veng province); and three in September 1997 in Basset marshes, Kandal.

PAINTED STORK *Mycteria leucocephala*

Two birds were often seen flying over the floodplain during the wet season: two on Highway 2, Takeo province in August 1996; two in Boeng Veal Samnap, Kandal, near Phnom Penh in September 1996; two dead birds were sold for meat in Prey Veng market in August 1997; eight (not identified for certain) were seen in Kamchai Meas district, Prey Veng province in August 1997; two juveniles over the Neak Leung - Prey Veng road in August 1997; two at km 42 on Highway 1 in August 1997; one flying over Phnom Penh in August 1997; one flying over flooded areas along the Tonle Sap river, south of Kompong Chhnang in October 1997.

WOOLLY-NECKED STORK *Ciconia episcopus*

Two birds were recorded on Highway 4, near a river, c. 60 km from Sihanoukville in December 1995. One on the road to Lumphat, Ratanakiri in January 1997, and another at Preah Vihear airport in May 1997. A pair, flying to perch on a treetop in the Angkor Thom area, Siem Reap province was reported to me in August 1997. I saw one bird flying high over the Roluos temples, Siem Reap province in October 1997.

MALAYSIAN PLOVER *Charadrius peronii*

A pair of birds was seen on a beach in Sihanoukville in June 1996. This is only the second record of the species in Cambodia since 1940. N. Van Zalinge (Robson, 1997) recorded a pair on Koh Rong island in August 1995.

HEART-SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Hemicircus canente*

This species had previously been recorded in Cambodia, but not since 1944 (Engelbach 1952). One bird was seen in the mixed deciduous forest of Yak Lom lake, near Banlung, Ratanakiri in December 1996.

ASIAN GOLDEN WEAVER *Ploceus hypoxanthus*

Birds and/or nests were seen in Kandal, Takeo and Ratanakiri provinces, in marshes: three or four pairs were nesting in Saang Phnom, Saang district, Kandal in June 1995 and June 1996; an unknown number of pairs were nesting in Samrong district, Takeo in July 1996; a few nests were found in Bassac marshes, Kandal in September 1996; a few nests in Kean Svay district, Kandal in September 1996; a few nests in Angkor Borey district, Takeo in September 1996; a few nests in Boeng Veal Samnap, Kandal in September 1996; four to five pairs nesting in Oyadao district and the same number in Bokeo district, Ratanakiri in June 1997.

### SPECIES OF REGIONAL CONSERVATION CONCERN RECORDED IN RATANAKIRI PROVINCE

- La = at risk or potentially at risk in Laos (based on Thewlis *et al.* in press).
- Th = extinct as breeder, threatened or near-threatened in Thailand (based on Round in prep.).

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* (La,Th)

Two single birds along O Daumbo, Taveng district, November 1996.

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea* (La,Th)

Singles were seen twice in a grassy marsh, O Chum district; one in November 1996 and one in January 1997.

BLACK EAGLE *Ictinaetus malayensis* (Th)

One bird flying low over dense forest, on the road to Vunsay, near the fork to Ka Chaon in January 1997. Another one in Vun Say the same month.

RIVER LAPWING *Vanellus duvaucelii* (La,Th)

One bird on the bank of the O Daumbo, Taveng district, November 1996. A total of 20 scattered birds counted (singles or small groups) during the boat trip Vun Say-Taveng, on the Tonle San banks and sandbars, June 1997. The highest recent count for Cambodia. It possibly has a restricted range in Cambodia as there is only one post-war record outside the north-east (one bird on freshwater mudflats, Phnom Srok district, Bantey Meanchey province, August 1998 - pers. obs.).

SMALL PRATINCOLE *Glareola lactea* (La)

Flocks seen several times flying over the Tonle San, Vun Say, January 1997. No count was recorded.

RIVER TERN *Sterna aurantia* (La,Th)

One bird regularly seen in Vun Say during my stays there (November 1996 and January 1997). Two birds only on the Tonle San stretch from Vun Say to Taveng, June 1997.

GREEN IMPERIAL PIGEON *Ducula aenea* (La,Th)

Large flocks (estimated to be in excess of 50 birds) encountered, but localized at two or three spots on the Tonle San stretch from Taveng to Andong Meas. The birds took off from sandy islands uncovered by the river.

PIED KINGFISHER *Ceryle rudis* (La,Th)

Present on the Tonle San in Vun Say, Taveng (November 1996 and January 1997) and all along the Tonle San from Vun Say up to Andong Meas, June 1997 (totalling 7 birds).

GREAT HORNBILL *Buceros bicornis* (La,Th)

A head of this species was noted hanging as a trophy on a house wall in Oyadao, in June 1997.

GREAT SLATY WOODPECKER *Mulleripicus pulverulentus* (Th)

Only one record: a pair was seen in Andong Meas, in December 1996, on the forested bank of the Tonle San.

WHITE-BELLIED WOODPECKER *Dryocopus javensis* (La,Th)

A pair was observed in Oyadao, on dead trees of a burnt field, in December 1996, and at the same place in June 1997, while another pair was seen in June 1997 in Kaum Mom district, in dry dipterocarp forest.

GOLDEN-CRESTED MYNA *Ampeliceps coronatus* (La)

A small party of three to four birds with juveniles was seen on a tree top in forest on the road from Andong Meas to Bokeo, in June 1997. Its populations have possibly been much reduced in Cambodia, and become restricted in range, as I have no recent record from any other parts of the country. Historically found near Kirirom, although a six-month survey in the three national parks of south-west Cambodia did not produce any records (Goes *et al.* 1998).

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